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1964/08/03

TELEPHONE NOTES
SECRETARY MCNAMARA (B)
TO THE PRESIDENT (A)

AUGUST 3, 1964
1:21pm

A Yes.

B Mr. President, I set up those meetings for this afternoon with the Senate and House leaders. I thought if it was agreeable with you I would say to them that some ~~m~~ months ago you asked us to be prepared for any eventuality.. in the Southeast Asia area, and as a result, we have prepared and ~~wk~~ just completed very detailed target analyses of the targets in North Vietnam.. as a matter of fact, in ten minutes I'm going over with the Chiefs.. the final work on this.. we have pictures.. analyses.. numbers.. bomb loadings, everything prepared.. all the target systems of North Vietnam.. and I would describe this to the leaders simply indicating your desire that we be fully prepared for whatever may develop. Furtermore we prepared detailed movement studies of any contingency forces required.. air squadrons, etc.

A Obviously.. now if you go put this in the paper....

B I'm going to tell them that...

A ...and your enemy reads about, then he thinks that.. we're already taking off, and obviously, you've got us in a war.. I've got to be candid with you, and I've got to tell you the truth..

B I was going to start my remarks by that.. damn sure.. try to be sure it doesn't get in the paper...

A ..and I think that's right.. I would tell them that yesterday morning they reported the Maddox incident, and during the day yesterday we sent out this order, and then read them the statement I made this morning.

B Right I'll do that..

A ..and so thatDirksen doesn't think that we have to waiting on him.. did go out yesterday.

B I'll tell them the order went out yesterday.. and you were simply repeating it for the press this morning.

A Okay.

B Goodbye.

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